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**From:** Lucey, Kathi (WES)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2010 1:36 PM  
**To:** Hanchett, James (DPH)  
**Subject:** RE: THC Percent

Jim,  
You ROCK! Thanks for the information. There was a GREAT discussion in the grand jury. You would have loved it.  
I really appreciate all your help and assistance very, vey much,  
Kath

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**From:** Hanchett, James (DPH)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2010 10:07 AM  
**To:** Lucey, Kathi (WES)  
**Subject:** THC Percent

Hi Kathy,  
FYI

## Marijuana

Marijuana is the most frequently encountered illicit drug worldwide. In the United States, according to the 2003 Monitoring the Future Study, 57 percent of adults aged 19 to 28 reported having used marijuana in their lifetime. Among younger Americans, 17.5 percent of 8th graders and 46.1 percent of 12th graders had used marijuana in their lifetime. The term "marijuana," as commonly used, refers to the leaves and flowering tops of the cannabis plant that are dried to produce a tobacco-like substance. Marijuana varies significantly in its potency, depending on the source and selection of plant materials used. The form of marijuana known as sinsemilla (Spanish, sin semilla: without seed), derived from the unpollinated female cannabis plant, is preferred for its high THC content. Marijuana is usually smoked in the form of loosely rolled cigarettes called joints, bongs, or hollowed out commercial cigars called blunts. Joints and blunts may be laced with a number of adulterants including phencyclidine (PCP), substantially altering the effects and toxicity of these products. Street names for marijuana include pot, grass, weed, Mary Jane, and reefer. Although marijuana grown in the United States was once considered inferior because of a low concentration of THC, advancements in plant selection and cultivation have resulted in higher THC-containing domestic marijuana. In 1974, the average THC content of illicit marijuana was less than one percent. Today most commercial grade marijuana from Mexico/Columbia and domestic outdoor cultivated marijuana has an average THC content of about 4 to 6 percent. Between 1998 and 2002, NIDA-sponsored Marijuana Potency Monitoring System (MPMP) analyzed 4,603 domestic samples. Of those samples, 379 tested over 15 percent THC, 69 samples tested between 20 and 25 percent THC and four samples tested over 25 percent THC.

This article is from DEA web site.

Jim Hanchett  
Amherst Drug Lab